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COR-0401-59
Copy 1 of 9

30 March 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR : Acting Chief, DPD-DD/P
THROUGH : Chief, Administrative Branch, DPD-DD/P
 : Chief, Research and Development Branch, DPD-DD/P
SUBJECT : Project CORONA
 (Unauthorized News Release - IMSD)

25X1

1. This is forwarded for information and to briefly record resolution of a possible unauthorized news release by IMSD concerning Project CORONA.

2. In the 12 February issue of The New York Times, an article appeared suggesting that a "TV camera less than eight inches long", developed by Nicholas K. Marshall, would be used on the DISCOVERER Project. (Copy Attached.) This caused this staff and Mr. Roy Johnson, Director of ARPA, considerable consternation.

3. As a result, the undersigned wired IMSD for an explanation. The response [] indicated the Times article was an erroneous reference and no such statement had been made by IMSD. This was reviewed with ARPA and it was agreed that as no other news service had picked up or enlarged on the article, the best course of action would be not to react except to deny validity of the article if asked. This was ARPA's reply to a couple of press inquiries. To insure full review and to prevent recurrence, the undersigned discussed the incident with Mr. L. Eugene Root on 19 February at Palo Alto. This conversation noted that in addition to ourselves, Mr. Johnson was very concerned over the incident. As a consequence, Mr. Root prepared a letter to Mr. Johnson explaining the situation and action taken. This was delivered to Mr. Johnson's office by the undersigned. (Copy of letter and attachments are attached hereto.)

4. As noted in attachments, this matter has been fully explored. It seems the Times writer made an erroneous association between the miniature TV camera and Project DISCOVERER. Fortunately, no major follow-up occurred. In view of this, we have established the necessary records for future reference, but no further current action is contemplated.

NRO review(s) completed.

- 0 - AC, DPD
- 1 - DD/P
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- 1 - C, DPD/Admin
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Security Officer
DPD-DD/P

This document contains information
referring to Project CORONA

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